

THE FLAIN DEALER
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STAT

Turner for CIA chief

Based on his record and proven talents, Adm. Stansfield Turner appears superbly qualified to be director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Indeed, his nomination by President Carter appears as inspired as the nomination of Theodore C. Sorensen was ill-advised.

Turner's nomination caps a brilliant career. He stood 25th academically in his 1946 Naval Academy class of 820 and was brigade commander. He won a Rhodes scholarship and went on to win a master's degree in philosophy, politics and economics at Oxford University.

His naval career includes distinguished tours as commander of the U.S. Second Fleet, president of the Naval War College and, most recently, commander of NATO forces in Southern Europe.

Turner is said to be a tough-minded intellectual and something of a maverick, qualities which would

stand him in good stead at Central Intelligence. He also has demonstrated administrative ability, something Sorensen lacked.

Perhaps most important, Adm. Turner would provide a keen understanding of military developments including the significance of evolving weapons technology. Over the next few years, the CIA's most demanding task will be the compilation and interpretation of information on Soviet intentions and military capabilities.

Unlike Sorensen, Adm. Turner has the background for such a task and would enjoy the confidence of the military and, presumably, the intelligence community.

While the Senate will no doubt subject Turner to careful scrutiny during the confirmation process, the initial reaction in the Senate to his nomination has been most favorable. Considering the merit of the President's choice, that comes as no surprise.